

Prenatal Care

Facts about Prenatal Care in Tennessee

- Prenatal care consists of a series of outpatient visits to a physician as well as laboratory screening and diagnostic imaging.
- In 2002, 11.2 % of the live births in Tennessee had received inadequate or no prenatal care.¹
- Black mothers were 2 times (19.5%) more likely to have received inadequate or no prenatal care when compared to White mothers (8.9%) in 2002.¹

Factors Contributing to Inadequate Prenatal Care

- Lack of medical insurance.
- Lack of convenient access to care.
- Delay in seeking care.
- Lack of strong family support.

Tennessee Department of Health prenatal services

The Tennessee Department of Health is committed to ensuring that all expectant mothers receive adequate and timely prenatal care. The Department has a number of services that work with communities and families to support mothers and babies having healthy outcomes.

Prenatal Care

Basic prenatal care services are provided at all local health department clinics and include pregnancy testing, education, presumptive eligibility, referral for WIC, and referral for obstetric medical management. Selected counties across the state provide full service obstetrical care for pregnant women. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-7353.**

Perinatal Regionalization

The perinatal regionalization program was established to provide for the diagnosis and treatment of certain life-threatening conditions of pregnant women and newborn infants. The five regional perinatal centers across the state have made this specialized care available by providing a statewide mechanism to health care providers for consultation and referral of high risk patients; transport of these patients, if necessary; personnel skilled in high risk perinatal care; post-graduate education for physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel; and site visits to local hospitals. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-7353.**

Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS)

Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS) is a home-based program where staff assist pregnant women, postpartum women for up to two years, and infants and children up to age six in gaining access to medical, social, and educational services. HUGS services are available throughout the



state. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-0329.**

Child Health and Development (CHAD)

CHAD is home-based program available in several counties for pregnant women and children ages birth to six. CHAD helps prevent or reduce abuse, neglect and developmental delays by providing parent support and education services. **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR CALL (615) 741-0329.**

¹ 2002 Birth record data (computation based on Kotelchuck Index), Tennessee Department of Health, Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment, Division of Health Statistics.